

THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

STATE OF WASHINGTON,

Plaintiff,

v.

CERBERUS INSTITUTIONAL
PARTNERS V, LP, AB ACQUISITION,
LLCL and SAFEWAY, INC.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. C15-147-JCC

ORDER ENTERING CONSENT
DECREE

This matter comes before the Court on the parties' stipulated motion for entry of a consent decree (Dkt. No. 4). Having thoroughly considered the parties' briefing and the relevant record, the Court finds oral argument unnecessary and hereby **GRANTS** the motion and **ENTERS** the following consent decree:

WHEREAS, Plaintiff State of Washington, through its Attorney General, ("Plaintiff") having initiated an investigation of the proposed acquisition by Defendants AB Acquisition, LLC ("Albertsons") and Cerberus Institutional Partners V, L.P. ("Cerberus"), of Defendant Safeway Inc. ("Safeway"), filed a Complaint alleging violations of Section 7 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and the Washington Unfair Business Practices – Consumer Protection Act, RCW 19.86.080; and

1 WHEREAS, Defendants agree that this Court has jurisdiction over them and the subject
2 matter in this action; and

3 WHEREAS, Defendants agree to be bound by the provisions of this Consent Decree
4 pending its approval by the Court and thereafter; and

5 WHEREAS, Defendants have agreed with the Federal Trade Commission (the “FTC” or
6 the “Commission”) to an Agreement Containing Consent Order (the “ACCO”), including a
7 Complaint, an Order to Maintain Assets (the “OMA”) and a Decision and Order (the “FTC
8 Order”) in a Related Action (defined herein), which have all been provisionally accepted by the
9 Commission. The OMA and FTC Order are incorporated into this Consent Decree and attached
10 as Exhibits A and B hereto to address the allegations set forth by Plaintiff in its Complaint;
11

12 NOW THEREFORE, before any testimony is taken, without trial or adjudication of any
13 issue of fact or law, without any admission or finding of wrongdoing or violation of any law, and
14 upon consent of the Parties, it is **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED:**
15

16 **I. JURISDICTION**

17 1. Defendant Cerberus Institutional Partners V, L.P. is a limited partnership organized,
18 existing, and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Delaware,
19 with its headquarters and principal place of business located at 875 Third Avenue, 11th
20 Floor, New York, NY 10022.

21 2. Defendant AB Acquisition LLC is a company organized, existing, and doing business
22 under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Delaware, with its headquarters and
23 principal place of business located at 250 Parkcenter Boulevard, Boise, ID 83706.

24 3. Defendant Safeway Inc. is a corporation organized, existing, and doing business under
25 and by virtue of the laws of the State of Delaware, with its headquarters and principal
26

1 place of business located at 5918 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94588.

2 4. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of, and each of the Parties to, this
3 action. The Complaint states a claim upon which relief may be granted against
4 Defendants under Section 7 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and under RCW
5 19.86.060, alleged in the Complaint as a supplemental state claim.

6 **II. DEFINITIONS**

7 It is **ORDERED** that, as used in this Consent Decree, all defined terms used herein shall
8 have the meaning defined in the FTC Order. In addition, the following definitions shall apply:
9

10 A. “Defendants” means Cerberus, Albertsons, and Safeway, individually and collectively.

11 B. “Washington Assets To Be Divested” means the Supermarkets in Washington
12 identified on Schedules C and D of the FTC Order, or any portion thereof, and all rights,
13 title, and interest in and to all assets, tangible and intangible, relating to, used in, and/or
14 reserved for use in, the Supermarket business operated at each of those locations,
15 including but not limited to all properties, leases, leasehold interests, equipment and
16 fixtures, books and records, government approvals and permits (to the extent
17 transferable), telephone and fax numbers, and goodwill. Washington Assets To Be
18 Divested includes any of Defendants’ other businesses or assets associated with, or
19 operated in conjunction with, the Washington Supermarket locations listed on Schedules
20 C and D of the FTC Order, including any fuel centers (including any convenience store
21 and/or car wash associated with such fuel center), pharmacies, liquor stores, beverage
22 centers, store cafes, or other related business(es) that customers reasonably associate with
23 the Supermarket business operated at each such location. At the Acquirer’s option, the
24 Washington Assets To Be Divested shall also include any or all inventory as of the
25
26

1 Divestiture Date.

2 *Provided, however,* that the Washington Assets To Be Divested shall not include
 3 those assets consisting of or pertaining to any of the Defendants' trademarks,
 4 trade dress, service marks, or trade names, except with respect to any purchased
 5 inventory (including private label inventory) or as may be allowed pursuant to any
 6 Remedial Agreement(s); and

7 *Provided, further,* that in cases in which books or records included in the
 8 Washington Assets To Be Divested contain information (a) that relates both to the
 9 Washington Assets To Be Divested and to other retained businesses of
 10 Defendants or (b) such that Defendants have a legal obligation to retain the
 11 original copies, then Defendants shall be required to provide only copies or
 12 relevant excerpts of the materials containing such information. In instances where
 13 such copies are provided to an Acquirer, the Defendants shall provide to such
 14 Acquirer access to original materials under circumstances where copies of
 15 materials are insufficient for regulatory or evidentiary purposes.
 16

17 C. "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission.

18 D. "Related Action" means the Commission's investigation of Defendants involving the
 19 merger of Defendants, resulting in the consolidation of retail Supermarket stores Chelan,
 20 Clallam, Island, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, and Walla Walla
 21 Counties in Washington, and other areas, and its subsequent action, In the Matter of
 22 Cerberus Institutional Partners V, L.P.; AB Acquisition LLC; and Safeway Inc.
 23

24 E. "Washington Relevant Areas" means Chelan, Clallam, Island, King, Kitsap, Pierce,
 25 Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, and Walla Walla Counties in Washington.
 26

1 **III. ASSET MAINTENANCE AND DIVESTITURE RELIEF**

2 It is hereby **ORDERED** that:

3 A. Defendants shall comply with the OMA and with the FTC Order.

4 B. All Remedial Agreements shall be deemed incorporated by reference into this Consent
5 Decree and Defendants shall comply with all such Remedial Agreements.

6 C. Defendants waive any objection to reports to the Commission by the Monitor as
7 required by Paragraph III of the OMA or Paragraph IV of the FTC Order, or by the
8 Divestiture Trustee as required by Paragraph III of the FTC Order, to the extent such
9 reports relate to the Washington Assets to be Divested or the Washington Relevant Areas,
10 also being provided to Plaintiff at the same time they are provided to the Commission.

11 Defendants further waive any objection to the Monitor consulting with or disclosing any
12 relevant information to Plaintiff so long as Plaintiff agrees to maintain the confidentiality
13 of such information to the fullest extent possible. In the event of a disagreement or
14 dispute between Defendants and the Monitor that cannot be resolved, Defendants must
15 agree to permit the Monitor to seek the assistance of the Antitrust Division of the Office
16 of the Washington Attorney General to resolve the issue.

17 D. For the duration of this Consent Decree, Defendants shall not terminate or rescind the
18 Limited Waiver to Permit Certain Exchanges of Confidential Information dated May 16,
19 2014 (Cerberus), or the Limited Waiver to Permit Exchanges of Confidential Information
20 dated May 18, 2014 (Safeway), without the consent of Plaintiff.
21
22
23

24 **IV. OTHER RELIEF**

25 It is further **ORDERED** that:

26 A. Any advance written notification to the Commission required by Paragraph VIII of the

1 FTC Order, to the extent such notification relates to the Washington Assets To Be
2 Divested or the Washington Relevant Areas, shall also be provided to Plaintiff.

3 B. Said notification under this Paragraph shall be provided in writing, and shall include a
4 brief description of the transaction, the parties to the transaction, the anticipated closing
5 date, specificity of location within the Washington Relevant Areas, and the contact
6 person for follow-up information requests. Notification shall be sent via overnight
7 express delivery to the following address:
8

9 Stephen Fairchild, Assistant Attorney General
10 Office of the Washington Attorney General
11 Antitrust Division
12 800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000
13 Seattle, WA 98104-3188

14 Defendants shall provide the notification to Plaintiff at least thirty (30) days prior to
15 consummating any such transaction. To comply with this Paragraph, Defendants shall
16 provide to Plaintiff the same notification on the same day that Defendant provides such
17 notice(s) to the Commission pursuant to Paragraph VIII of the FTC Order.

18 C. Plaintiff may request further information from Defendants of a transaction reported
19 under Paragraph IV(A), subject to claims of privilege or other rights Defendants may
20 have in response to such requests. Such requests shall be made by Investigative Demands
21 issued pursuant to the authority of this Consent Decree and RCW 19.86.110. Nothing in
22 this Paragraph IV shall waive, limit or compromise Plaintiff's authority and ability to
23 pursue a subsequent enforcement action against Defendants for a transaction that may
24 violate state or federal law.

25 D. Pursuant to RCW 19.86.080, Plaintiff is awarded its attorneys' fees and investigative
26 costs in the amount of twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$28,000). The Attorney General

1 shall use the funds for recovery of the costs of any attorneys' fees incurred in
2 investigating this matter, future enforcement of RCW 19.86, or for any lawful purpose in
3 the discharge of the Attorney General's duties, at the sole discretion of the Attorney
4 General. Defendants shall pay this sum to the Plaintiff within thirty (30) days of entry of
5 this Consent Decree or March 1, 2015, whichever is later, and shall be made by cashier's
6 check or wire transfer to the State of Washington, Office of the Attorney General.

7 **V. COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING**

8 It is further **ORDERED** that:

9
10 A. Defendants shall submit to Plaintiff copies of all verified written reports required to be
11 submitted to the Commission by Paragraph IX of the FTC Order, which copies shall be
12 provided to the Plaintiff on the same day that Defendants provide their reports to the
13 Commission. When Defendants provide Plaintiff a copy of a verified written report
14 submitted to the Commission, Defendants must state in such report that the report is
15 responsive to and enforceable under the corresponding provisions of this Consent Decree.

16
17 B. If requested by Plaintiff, Defendants shall provide the name(s) of Defendants'
18 employee(s) who provided and/or are responsible for providing information used and
19 reviewed in support of the statements contained in the written report of compliance.

20 **VI. NOTICE AND NOTICE EVENTS**

21 It is further **ORDERED** that:

22 Any notice provided by Defendants to the Commission pursuant to Paragraph X of the
23 FTC Order shall also be provided to the Plaintiff on the same day such notice is provided to the
24 Commission.
25

26 A. Any notices required by this Consent Decree shall be delivered to the parties at the

1 following addresses:

2 For Albertsons:

3 AB Acquisition, LLC
4 250 Parkcenter Blvd.
5 Boise, ID 83706
Attention: General Counsel

6 with a copy to:

7 Dechert LLP
8 1900 K Street NW
9 Washington, DC 20006
Attention: Paul T. Denis
James A. Fishkin

10 For Cerberus:

11 Cerberus Capital Management
12 875 Third Avenue
13 11th Floor
14 New York, NY 10022
Attention: General Counsel

15 with a copy to:

16 Dechert LLP
17 1900 K Street NW
18 Washington, DC 20006
19 Attention: Paul T. Denis
20 James A. Fishkin

21 For Safeway:

22 Safeway Inc.
23 5918 Stoneridge Mall Road
24 Pleasanton, CA 94588
25 Attention: General Counsel

26 with a copy to:

Law Offices of Richard C. Weisberg
33 Derwen Road
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
Attention: Richard C. Weisberg

For Plaintiff, to the same address listed in Paragraph IV(B).

Any party may change the name or address of the person to receive notice by providing prior written notice to the other parties.

1 **VII. PLAINTIFF'S RIGHTS OF INVESTIGATION, INSPECTION AND**
2 **EXAMINATION**

3 It is further **ORDERED** that, for the purpose of determining or securing compliance with
4 this Consent Decree:

5 A. Plaintiff may issue an Investigative Demand pursuant to RCW 19.86.110. Defendants
6 shall timely and fully comply with any such Investigative Demands; and

7 B. Subject to any legally recognized privilege, upon written request and upon five (5)
8 days' notice to Defendants, Defendants shall permit any duly authorized representative of
9 Plaintiff
10

11 1. Access, during office hours of Defendants and in the presence of counsel, to all
12 facilities and access to inspect and copy all books, ledgers, accounts,
13 correspondence, memoranda and all other records and documents in the
14 possession or under the control of Defendants relating to compliance with this
15 Consent Decree, which copying services shall be provided by such Defendant at
16 the request of the authorized representative(s) of Plaintiff and at the expense of
17 Defendant; and
18

19 2. Without restraint or interference from Defendants, access to interview officers,
20 directors, or employees of Defendants, who may have counsel present, regarding
21 any such matters.
22

23 **VIII. VIOLATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT OF CONSENT DECREE**

24 It is further **ORDERED** that:

25 A. It shall be a violation of this Consent Decree if a Defendant fails to abide by the terms
26 of this Consent Decree or, to the extent they relate to the Washington Assets To Be

1 Divested or the Washington Relevant Areas, the FTC Order, OMA, and/or any Remedial
2 Agreements.

3 B. Subject to the requirements of this Section, Plaintiff may petition the Court for relief
4 as a result of a violation of this Consent Decree by filing a “Notice of Violation of
5 Consent Decree” which shall set forth the alleged violation and the relief sought by
6 Plaintiff.

7 C. For any violations of this Consent Decree committed by Defendant(s), Plaintiff may
8 seek the following remedies:
9

10 1. Payment of penalties in accordance with RCW 19.86.140;

11 2. A civil contempt of court order from the Court retaining jurisdiction over the
12 interpretation, modification and enforcement of this Consent Decree, and all
13 remedies provided by law for obtaining such order; and

14 3. Equitable and injunctive relief, with respect to the Washington Assets To Be
15 Divested, authorized by federal or state law that the Court deems appropriate, so
16 long as such relief is not inconsistent with the FTC Order.
17

18 D. All relief requested by Plaintiff for violation of the provisions of this Consent Decree
19 shall be supported by evidence presented to the Court in whatever form required by the
20 Court, applying substantive Washington law in interpretation and enforcement.

21 E. All monetary penalties paid pursuant to this Section shall be deposited in compliance
22 with RCW 19.86.140. Defendant(s) shall also pay to Plaintiff its reasonable attorneys’
23 fees and costs incurred if Plaintiff is the prevailing party in a contested action to interpret,
24 modify or enforce this Consent Decree.
25

26 F. Plaintiff shall not take enforcement action under this Consent Decree until the

1 following has occurred:

- 2 1. Plaintiff has given a Defendant notice of the alleged violation(s) in writing;
- 3 2. Defendant has had a period of at least thirty (30) days to (a) respond to and cure
- 4 the alleged violation(s); and/or (b) provide written notice disputing the alleged
- 5 violation or presenting cure to Plaintiff; and
- 6 3. The respective Parties have had a period of ten (10) days after Defendant has
- 7 provided notice of dispute or notice of cure to meet and confer regarding the
- 8 alleged violation(s) and the respective Parties' responses. Such meeting and
- 9 conferral may occur in person, by telephone, or in writing.

11 G. If Defendant fails to respond to and cure, or fail to provide written notice of dispute,
 12 Plaintiff may immediately seek relief from the Court. The respective parties may, but no
 13 party is required to, extend the timelines in this Paragraph by mutual consent in writing.
 14 Plaintiff may informally notify Defendant of receipt of information alleging a violation of
 15 this Consent Decree if, in Plaintiff's judgment, such notification could likely result in a
 16 prompt resolution of the alleged violation.

18 **IX. CHANGES TO AND DIRECTIVES RESULTING FROM COMMISSION'S** 19 **DECISION AND ORDER**

20 It is further **ORDERED**, that from the date of entry of this Consent Decree, if the
 21 Commission makes any changes to the FTC Order or OMA or issues further directives pursuant
 22 to the FTC Order or OMA, and unless otherwise stipulated by the parties to this Consent Decree,
 23 Plaintiff shall have sole discretion to seek relief from this Court to incorporate into this Consent
 24 Decree the terms of the amended FTC Order or OMA and/or any subsequent directives or orders
 25 issued by the Commission. Plaintiff shall notify Defendant through its counsel in writing if
 26 Plaintiff acts in accordance with this Section and shall promptly present any such amendments to

1 this Court.

2 **X. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

3 It is further **ORDERED** that:

4 A. The remedies in this Consent Decree are in addition to all remedies available to
5 Plaintiff under federal and state law. Nothing in this Consent Decree shall prohibit or in
6 any way limit Plaintiff from seeking all damages, fines, penalties and remedies for any
7 Defendant's conduct, actions, transactions, mergers or acquisitions that is/are otherwise
8 unlawful under federal or state law, even if such conduct, actions, transactions, mergers
9 or acquisitions may also violate this Consent Decree.

10 B. This Consent Decree shall neither be construed nor interpreted as a concession that
11 Defendants have, or any of them has, violated any federal or state law, nor that
12 Defendants have adopted or agreed to any allegations in Plaintiff's Complaint, except for
13 the allegations relating to jurisdiction.

14 C. This Consent Decree shall terminate ten (10) years from the date of entry; provided,
15 however, that this Consent Decree may remain in effect after completion of such ten (10)
16 year period solely for the purpose of determining or enforcing compliance during its ten-
17 year effective period.

18 D. This Court retains jurisdiction to enable any Party to this Consent Decree to apply to
19 this Court at any time for further orders and directions as may be necessary or appropriate
20 to carry out or construe this Consent Decree, to modify any of its provisions, to enforce
21 compliance, and to punish violations of its provisions.

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23 //

DATED this 3rd day of February 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John C. Coughenour", written over a horizontal line.

John C. Coughenour
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE